

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David McBride, Chairman
Fredric Cort, Jake Dye, Fred Hannon,
Robert Knabe, Paul Raffa

MEMBERS ABSENT: Colleen Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Macalle Finkle, Paralegal

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. May 20, 2019
 - Mr. McBride noted he was unlikely to attend the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 18, 2019
 - Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED approval of the March 18, 2019, minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.
- **Note: CCSP-02-19 was heard prior to Reports.**

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports – March 2019
 - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, drew members’ attention to the March 2019 financial reports, as delineated in the agenda material.
 - Mr. McBride recommended staff prepare a response to comments on social media that the canal maintenance assessment should be reduced as the City had received seawall repair reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- B. Budget Utilization Report – March 2019
 - Ms. Miller presented the March 2019 Budget Utilization Report, as delineated in the agenda material, confirming there were no questions.
- C. Seawall Replacement Status Report – March 2019
 - Ms. Miller noted the March 2019 report was included in the agenda material.

- D. Permits Authorized by City Staff – March 2019
- Ms. Miller noted 42 permits were authorized in March 2019.

Note: Mr. Dye left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

- Members expressed concern regarding enforcement of canal construction requirements, requesting Building Division staff explain the process used to approve and finalize permits.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status Report – Update
- Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager, reported staff met with the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening and Dredging project consultant, concluding progress was being made.
- F. Irma 17 – Production Levels 2019
- Mr. Disher reviewed the production level report for March 2019, as delineated in the agenda material, anticipating all seawalls would be set by the contract end date.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Note: CCSP-02-19 was heard after Citizens Comments On Agenda Items Only.

- A. CCSP-02-19 – Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a portion of a boat lift with two (2) boat lift pilings outside the 45 degree angle, which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 47, Block 146, Section 12, aka 1503 Suzi Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.
- Owner/Petitioner: Jeffrey Vang
Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412224327002
- Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings, as delineated in the agenda material, providing a brief review of the request. He concluded staff recommended approval of CCSP-02-19.

Note: Mr. Dye left the dais at 1:35 p.m.

- Mr. Dye, applicant’s representative, stated the configuration was typical for key lots, asserting same would not have an adverse impact on adjacent properties. He reported contact with one adjacent property owner.
- Ms. Joyce Librant distributed a letter to members, as delineated in the agenda material, and voiced objection to CCSP-02-19, citing concerns related to docking her boat and the lowering of her property’s value.
- Ms. Donna Roderick, expressed concern the proposed lift would impact docking, navigation, personal safety and neighboring property values.
- Mr. Dye reiterated the proposed configuration had been selected to limit impacts to adjacent property owners and spoke in favor of approval of the special permit.
- Ms. Librant inquired as to how to appeal approval of CCSP-02-19.

- Ms. Macalle Finkle, Paralegal, explained the applicant could appeal the Board's decision to City Council; however citizens would have to pursue civil action.
- Mr. McBride called three times for anyone to speak on CCSP-02-19.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Cort noted this request was similar to Canal Construction Special Permits (CCSPs) which had been approved, speaking in favor of this request.
- Mr. McBride commented this request was consistent with Board's desire to facilitate safe usage of the canals, stating impacts on property value were not relevant. He suggested drawings be examined for compliance.
- Discussion ensued regarding the drawings and plans submitted for construction of docks and lifts.
- Mr. Dye stated he was abstaining from voting as he had a financial interest in the matter.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to approve CCSP-02-19. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note: Reports were heard prior to Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Rewrite of Chapter 6, "Boats, Docks and Waterways", Article II, "Construction in Waterways"
- Ms. Finkle presented Chapter 6, Article II, Sections 6-15 through 6-17, Punta Gorda Code, for members' consideration, noting Subsection 6-15 (c) would be presented at the June 17, 2019 meeting. She reviewed provisions related to Canal Construction Special Permits, dis-repaired or dilapidated structures, non-conforming structures and marking and reflectorizing of pilings and structures.
 - Members were in favor of the following: public hearing notices to be sent only to property owners within 300 feet along the seawall to either side of the subject property; CCSP to expire if project not constructed within two years of the permit's approval date; staff to further clarify definition of disrepaired or dilapidated structures.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Ms. Finkle noted she and Police Officer Joe Trufan would attend a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission seminar regarding derelict vessels.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:44 p.m.

David McBride, Chairman

Leah Pues, Recording Secretary